

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Not for submission under 37 CFR 1.99)

Application No. 10/577,699

Filing Date April 28, 2006

First Inventor Shinichiro Kadowaki, et al.

Art Unit

Examiner Name

Attorney Docket No. 96790P533

Conf. No. 3744

DUTY OF DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In accordance with the duty of disclosure, enclosed is a copy of an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) Citation Form PTO/SB/08 or PTO-1449, together with copies of the documents cited on that form, except for copies not required to be submitted (e.g., copies of U.S. patents and U.S. published patent applications need not be enclosed). This IDS and IDS Citation Form are being submitted before the mailing of a first Office Action. It is respectfully requested that the cited references be considered and that the enclosed copy of PTO/SB/08 be initialed by the Examiner to indicate such consideration and a copy thereof returned to applicant(s).

The references were cited in a Search Report dated November 25, 2008 (copy enclosed herewith).

The submission of this Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made in the subject application and is not to be construed as an admission that the information cited in this statement is material to patentability.

CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

Please see 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98 to make the appropriate selection(s):

That each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement. See 37 CFR 1.97(e)(1).

OR

That no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement. See 37 CFR 1.97(e)(2).

OR

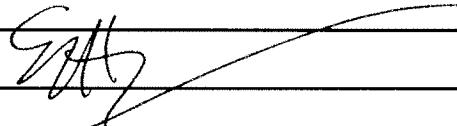
None

The IDS Filing Fee in the amount of \$180.00 as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p) has been submitted herewith.

It is requested that any requisite fees be debited from Deposit Account 02-2666.

SIGNATURE

A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with CFR 1.33, 10.18. Please see CFR 1.4(d) for the form of signature.

| | | | |
|------------|---|---------------------|------------|
| Signature |  | Date (YYYY-MM-DD) | 2009-01-15 |
| Name/Print | Eric S. Hyman | Registration Number | 30,139 |

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being submitted electronically via EFS Web on the date shown below.

Brandy Beeks Brandy Beeks

1/26/09

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to be (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.